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Presiding Elder William Meeks

HARVEY MEEKS



Harvey Meeks, the son of William Meeks and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, was born April 9, 1838. He came to Utah with his parents in 1852, in Captain Nissonger's Company.

He married Sarah Catherine Dowdle who came to Utah in 1847. To Harvey and Sarah Catherine were born the following children:

Harvey Porter
Jane Catherine
William Hyrum
David Henry
Electa Ann
Mary Elizabeth
John Jerde
George Wylie
Loretta Mae
Thomas Elmer.

The Harvey Meeks' were good parents and true pioneers. Mr. Meeks delighted in well bred horses and always drove a beautiful span of high spirited animals. Mrs. Meeks was clean and orderly.

WILLIAM AND MARY ELIZABETH RHODES MEEKS

William Meeks, son of Athe and Ann Vest Meeks.

Born January 9, 1815, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Married Mary Elizabeth Rhodes.
Died November 30, 1877, St. George, Utah, killed riding a horse.



Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, daughter of George Henry Rhodes and Elizabeth Nissonger. Born January 23, 1818, in Boone, Warnock County, Indiana. Died March 29, 1900 at Bicknell, Utah.

William came to Utah in 1852 in Capt. Nissonger's Company with his parents. After arriving in Utah the Meeks family moved to Nephi, Utah. Three years later they were called to go to Fort Supply in Wyoming where they stayed during the time Johnston's army came through.

In 1858 or 1859 William Meeks came into Provo Valley with Joseph Parker, William Cummings, William Wall and Andrew Ross. They cut some hay and fed their livestock on what they called Meek's Bottom about two miles southwest of the present Heber City.

During the winter of 1859 and 1860 William Meeks and others built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon, which was the pioneer sawmill in the valley. A grand-daughter, Mary Ann Meeks Wirthlin says her grandfather, William Meeks suggested that the town be called Heber City, after the given name of Heber C. Kimball.

William Meeks was the first Presiding Elder in the valley. In 1860 he helped to build a log cabin, 16 feet by 40 feet which was used for the Pioneer Day celebration that year.

The Meeks family moved to Provo from Heber City and Midway, and from there to St. George where William was killed in a horse accident.

Children of William and Mary were:

Harvey, married Catherine Dowdle
Henry, married Ann Mechem
Elizabeth, married Jared Bullock
Mary Ann, married William Cummings
William, married Sarah Gardner
Joseph, married Vilate Burgess

Mary Jane, married James Pierce
Mary Melissa, married Willard Snow
Mary Louisa, married James Gardner.